



BILL MERCER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

MISSION: *“To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law, to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.”* FY 2003 - 2008 Strategic Plan, Page ii.

CORE VALUES: >EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW > HONESTY AND INTEGRITY > COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE > RESPECT FOR THE WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EACH HUMAN BEING>

NATIONAL STRATEGIC GOALS:

I		II cont.		II cont.		III		IV		V		VI		VII			
Protect America and the District Against the Threat of Terrorism		Vigorous Enforcement of Federal Criminal Laws				Promote Stewardship of America's Environment and Natural Resources		Effectively Represent the U.S. in Civil Matters		Protect Civil Rights Ensured By Federal Law, Including the Rights of Victims		Ensure Professionalism and Excellence in Job Performance with a Diversified Work Force		Effective Communications with the Public and Agencies			
LOCAL OBJECTIVES:																	
1.1	Continue efforts of USAO Anti-Terrorism unit to use all resources to disrupt and defeat terrorists and terrorist organizations through criminal prosecution and the gathering and sharing of intelligence.	2.1	Continue "Catch and No Release" partnership with local and state law enforcement as part of the national Project Safe Neighborhood effort to reduce crime through training of state and local law enforcement officers and the vigorous enforcement of federal firearms laws.	2.5	Target interstate drug trafficking with a particular focus on regional priority targets to stem the flow of methamphetamine and other dangerous drugs in Montana.	2.9	Combat crimes against those most vulnerable to acts of exploitation, including financial exploitation of the elderly.	3.1	Defend against suits challenging statutes and agency actions (e.g., management of federal lands).	4.1	Continue to utilize the False Claims Act to combat fraud, waste and abuse in federally funded programs and contracts, including procurement fraud.	5.1	Respond to allegations of civil rights violations by ensuring that a referral is made to the appropriate law enforcement entity and/or the Civil Rights Division and that charges are sought in cases which merit prosecution.	6.1	Continue with mentoring efforts.	7.1	Continue efforts to ensure prompt PIRF notification and issuance of same day press releases.
1.2	Work with the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council, and other agencies who conduct terrorism and intelligence investigations.		PARTNERS: Local Law Enforcement Departments, ATF, FBI, HIDTA and Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces, BIA, Tribal Police, State Probation and State Crime Lab			2.10	Protect taxpayer dollars, and program and institutional integrity by prosecuting federal program fraud, including procurement fraud, and health care fraud.	3.2	Represent the U.S. in all matters concerning the protection, use and development of the district's natural resources and public lands.	4.2	Continue use of alternative dispute resolution techniques to resolve litigation where appropriate.		PARTNER: FBI	6.2	Continue efforts to ensure attorney self-sufficiency.	7.2	Sponsor Criminal Agency Chiefs Conference.
1.3	Lead the district's endeavors to increase information sharing and establish plans to prevent terrorism; continue to develop partnerships with Canadian counterparts, tribal governments, and state and local governments.		CAPACITY ASSESSMENT: in conjunction with cases prosecuted under "Catch and No Release", the USAO has the capacity to prosecute fifteen cases from rural Montana and at least 3 cases in each of the following categories: false statements made in conjunction with the national instant check system (NICS); stolen firearms; and firearms with obliterated serial numbers.	2.6	Increase the use of financial investigations in drug trafficking cases with improving asset forfeiture potential as the primary goal.		PARTNERS: DEA, HIDTA Task Forces, and Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces		PARTNERS: Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management	4.3	Continue to promote the fair and uniform enforcement of federal tax laws and the collection of tax debts to protect the public fisc through enforcement and foreclosure of tax liens, and writs of assistance.	5.2	Continue efforts to protect the rights of crime victims through compliance with the Justice for All Act of 2004 and the Attorney General's VW guidelines, including the right to testify at sentencing and the right to restitution authorized by the Mandatory Victim Restitution Act, and all other applicable statutory requirements.	6.3	Continue training efforts at the office retreat and new attorney orientation.	7.3	Management meet with each major law enforcement and civil client agency.
1.4	Conduct training on domestic and international terrorism issues for first responders, criminal investigators, and other stakeholders.				PARTNERS: DEA, BICE, and HIDTA and Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces	2.11	Enhance voluntary compliance with the federal tax system by both individuals and entities through the prosecution of those who commit tax crimes.	3.3	Prosecute cases involving criminal violations of environmental laws.	4.4	Continue USAO's Financial Litigation Unit efforts to ensure the interests of the U.S. are fully protected in post-judgment debt collection.	5.3	Continue efforts to maintain the integrity of the data in Victim Notification System and to ensure full compliance with the program.	6.4	Ensure equitable assignment of cases through file reviews and Alcatraz analysis.		
1.5	Prosecute criminal aliens, other violations of immigration law and document fraud. PARTNERS: BICE, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, and Social Security OIG	2.2	Continue community outreach and increase awareness of firearms violations and penalties including outreach to school officials, parents, and students through Project Sentry.		PARTNERS: DEA, BICE, and HIDTA and Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces	2.12	Implement the national PSC objective by: integrating the efforts of PSC partners to investigate and prosecute child exploitation cases, and to identify and rescue child victims; providing for local PSC participation in coordinated national initiatives; increasing federal investigations and prosecutions in child exploitation cases; providing appropriate training to law enforcement officials; and coordinating local public awareness and education campaigns.	3.4	Prosecute illegal uses of federal land, including the removal of forest products from Forest Service lands and disposal of hazardous chemical by-products from methamphetamine production.	4.5	Aggressively defend the U.S. in lawsuits brought against it and in cases where the government is liable, seek just settlement to both plaintiff and the U.S.			6.5	Continue with efforts to increase intraoffice communication.		
		2.3	Continue liaison efforts with tribes by the assigned AUSAs, including regular participation in multi-disciplinary teams through quarterly meetings with tribal officials and other stakeholders and quarterly reports to the USA.	2.7	Combat prescription drug abuse and diversion of prescription drugs through federal prosecutions.		PARTNER: IRS-CID		PARTNERS: Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and DEA			5.4	Provide training to all federal agents on the provisions of the Justice for All Act of 2004 and the key provision of the Attorney General's VW Guidelines.	6.6	Encourage employee growth and professional development through NAC and brown bag training.		
			PARTNERS: FBI, BIA, and Tribal Police					3.5	Prosecute those who engage in the unlawful commercialization of wildlife through the Lacey Act, Endangered Species Act, Airborne Hunting Act, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act.			5.5	Vigorous prosecution of human trafficking; offer human trafficking training for northern border law enforcement personnel.	6.7	Recruit and hire well-qualified individuals and enhance workforce diversity as vacancies occur.		
		2.4	Redouble efforts to charge viable felony cases in Indian Country under the Major Crimes Act and Assimilated Crimes Act.	2.8	Protect investors, consumers, creditors, and provide confidence in the national investment, commerce and banking systems by prosecuting corporate, securities, insurance, financial institution and bankruptcy fraud, identity theft, and other white collar crime.				PARTNER: Fish & Wildlife Service				PARTNER: FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service	6.8	Continue the implementation of the mandated criminal appellate standards, including moot courts for affirmative appeals, allegations of misconduct or one's first appellate argument and prefiling review of all briefs.		
					PARTNERS: HHS/OIG, FBI, Montana Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, DEA, VA/OIG, and HIDTA and Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces									6.9	Continue to strive for higher quality written submission to the court of appeals through better analysis and improved citation to primary and secondary sources, including legislative history, law review articles, and authority in other circuits.		
			CAPACITY ASSESSMENT: The USAO has the capacity to prosecute at least 50 cases for crimes arising on each of the following reservations:		PARTNERS: FBI, IRS-CID, Postal Inspector, Secret Service, Social Security OIG, SEC, U.S. Trustee, State Auditor's Office, Local Law Enforcement Departments, and Montana DCI		PARTNERS: FBI, BICE, Local Law Enforcement Departments, and Montana DCI							6.10	Ensure awareness and compliance with national policies, including the Ashcroft Memo.		

